

Air Force Prime Time, a weekly news magazine for and about airmen stationed overseas, airs Thursday evenings at 8:25 p.m. Central Euro-pean Time on AFN television. In this week's edition...brace yourselves for an armchair safari as AFPT heads to Africa. This edition covers both flood relief in Mozambique and the Medflag humanitarian assistance team in Cameroon.

News briefs

Daylight-saving time

Europe recognizes daylight-saving time Sunday. People need to set their clocks ahead one-hour at 2 a.m. The United States doesn't switch to daylight-saving time until April 2. Therefore, friends and relatives in the Eastern Standard Time zone are seven hours behind, eight hours for Central Standard Time zones, nine hours for Mountain Standard Times zones and 10 hours for Pacific Standard Time zones.

Fund-raising campaign

The annual Air Force Assistance Fund campaign continues through March 31. The installation target is nearly \$44,000.

As of Monday, nearly \$42,000 had been donated. Brig. Gen. Don Hoffman, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, encourages full support of the campaign.

"There are only two fund-raisers a year where we ask for wing-wide support, the Combined Federal Campaign and the AFAF," he said. "The AFAF is where we take care of our own. Last year, the AFAF returned more than \$282,000 to the Spangdahlem community."

For more information, call 1st Lt. Julie Birt, wing AFAF project officer, at 452-6060 or squadron representatives.

Future officers

Tech. Sgt. James Austin, 52nd Operations Group, and Staff Sgt. Michael Silvia, 52nd Operations Support Squadron, received word March 16 that they had been selected for Officer Training School.

Eifel Times

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Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

March 24, 2000

Averting disaster lands pilot annual Air Force safety award

By Staff Sgt. Rich Romero
Chief, internal information

A feat of airmanship April 8, 1999, not only saved Capt. Ripley (Rip) Woodard III's life and a \$8.8 million A-10, but earned him the 1999 Koren Kolligian Jr. Trophy.

As an A-10 functional check flight pilot with the 81st Fighter Squadron, Woodard is used to working through mechanical problems in-flight. However, the in-flight emergency he experienced during Operation Allied Force included combat munitions and a complete lack of outside references for flying, he said.

"It (the IFE) tested my aircraft systems knowledge and mental endurance far beyond anything I could have imagined," said the 11-year veteran. "I've experienced numerous IFEs, but nothing as severe as this."

Woodard was the wingman on a combat air strike control sortie into Kosovo. Rain soaked the ground and the poor weather rose from 500 to 30,000 feet at takeoff from Aviano Air Base, Italy. Heavy icing conditions pushed the formation to climb to 30,000 feet to get above the weather. After reaching the established altitude, his aircraft experienced a double engine failure.

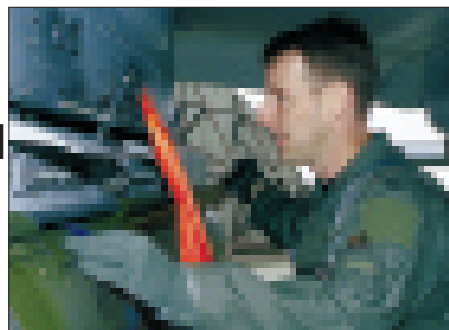
As the aircraft fell through the weather, he had no attitude reference and limited flight controls because there was no electrical or hydraulic power being supplied by the engines.

"The weather, loss of electrical power and lack of visual references made aircraft control one of the most difficult aspects to handle," Woodard said. "Aircraft control should be second nature when you have other problems."

He shifted the aircraft into manual reversion, a cable and pulley backup system for A-10 flight controls. He was left with only the turn and slip indicator (needle and ball) to keep the aircraft in controlled flight.

"Because the aircraft was so far out of its normal operating envelope, I had to wait until I fell below FL180 (flight level 180 or 18,000 feet) to attempt to restart engines," he said.

The first engine restarted after passing 12,500 feet, the second after 8,500 feet. The aircraft then bottomed out at 6,500 before he could turn back for home. An hour and 45 minutes after takeoff, he landed safely back at Aviano AB.



Senior Airman Esperanza Berrios

Capt. Rip Woodard, 81st Fighter Squadron pilot, performs a pre-flight check on an A-10.

During the IFE, Woodard said he was "too busy taking care of the problem and trying to make use of all my aircraft systems knowledge while trying not to die." Averting the disaster he attributes to "fear, luck and divine intervention."

The Kolligian trophy recognizes outstanding airmanship by an aircrew member, said Lt. Col. Timothy Strawther, 52nd Fighter Wing chief of safety. The crewmember must show extraordinary skill, alertness, ingenuity or proficiency in averting or minimizing the seriousness of a flight mishap.

According to award submission criteria, the emergency must have resulted from any of the following situations:

■Mechanical difficulty while in flight or in the aircraft or with related equipment on the ground.

■Human errors in the air or on the ground (not caused by their own misdeeds, lack of judgment, or foolhardy or excessive risk-taking).

■Environmental factors beyond the nominee's control.

Woodard and his family fly to Washington, D.C., May 12 to receive the award at a ceremony presided over by Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff. The ceremony, which includes a formal reception, takes place at the Pentagon.

The trophy presented each year is provided by the family of Lt. Koren Kolligian Jr., whom have sponsored this award and been present at each year's presentation since the inception of the award in 1958. A permanently displayed trophy is maintained at the Pentagon in honor of all recipients.

Awards mount for wing troops

U.S. Air Forces in Europe and 52nd Fighter Wing officials recently announced 1999 unit and individual awards winners in history programs, communications and information professionalism and for special merit.

History programs

■Master Sgt. Randy Richardson, 52nd Fighter Wing, excellence in wing history programs

Communications and information

■Master Sgt. Vernon Pickard, 606th Air Control Squadron, information manager senior NCO

■Tech. Sgt. William McElhinny, 52nd Munitions Support Squadron, IM NCO

■Senior Airman Shannon Hagen, 52nd Communications Squadron, IM airman

■Master Sgt. Dean Pilgrim, 52nd CS, communications-computer manager senior NCO

■Staff Sgt. Scott Vikre, 606th ACS, CCM NCO

■Senior Airman Douglas Dillingham, 606th ACS, CCM airman

■Master Sgt. Wayne Haugen, 52nd CS, postal manager senior NCO

■Tech. Sgt. Kirk Baldwin, 52nd CS, postal manager NCO

■Airman 1st Class Jorge Griego, 52nd CS, postal manager airman

■Senior Master Sgt. June Crumble, 52nd CS, visual information manager senior NCO

■Tech. Sgt. Michael Von Kriegenbergh, 52nd CS, VI NCO

■Senior Airman Justin Hanson, 52nd CS, VI airman

■Master Sgt. Nicholas Boduch, 52nd CS, information assurance manager

■Capt. David Olander, 606th ACS, communications company grade officer

Special Merit Award

The 52nd Fighter Wing received the award from Gen. Wesley Clark, European Command commander, for having the best Combined Federal Campaign in USAFE.

This was the first time Spangdahlem has received the award. The wing raised more than \$266,000 during the fall fund-raising campaign.

Staff Sgt. Linda Rainey, custodian operations postal effects technician, distributes mail.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Victor Trisvan

MISSION GK ESSENTIAL

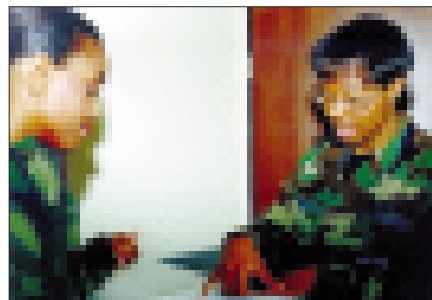
Providing a variety of support for NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen falls upon the people of the 470th Air Base Squadron.

The base at Geilenkirchen is NATO's only Airborne Early Warning and Control component.

Of the more than 160 Air Force members assigned to the 470th ABS, about half are in the medical and dental fields. The remaining encompass a wide variety of support areas including finance, postal, personnel, education services and family support.



Staff Sgt. Anthony Cambell, dental laboratory technician, makes a porcelain cap for a patient at the 470th Air Base Squadron dental clinic at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen.



Staff Sgt. Tara Mundy, pay services technician, helps Staff Sgt. Nicole McPherson with a travel voucher.



Staff Sgt. Emerlito Tomasek, NCOIC of X-ray, aligns the machine for a lower back shot. Left, Maj. Lisa Smith, health promotion manager, explains proper eating habits to German air force Cpl. Jrg Volkert.





David Miranda powers his way to a base record during the Baumholder Open Saturday.

Lifter powers past base 198 lbs record

By Staff Sgt. Rich Romero
Chief, internal information

David Miranda broke the Spangdahlem total weight powerlifting record in the 198-pound class and place first in his weight class during the Baumholder Open Saturday.

With a combined 1,460 pounds, Miranda lifted the Spangdahlem team to an overall first place among the seven competing teams. His record-breaking day included a 520-pound squat, 365-pound bench and a 575-pound deadlift.

Other team members placing in the top spots in their weight classes were:

■ Matt Green (132 lbs.) first, Tobias Adams (148 lbs.) second, Max Rippel (198 lbs.) second, Joshua Benninger (165 lbs.) third, William Mobley (181 lbs.) third, Gary Goodman (220 lbs.) third, and Robin Riley (242 lbs.) third

The Baumholder meet also helped prepare the team for the upcoming Armed Forces Powerlifting Championships to be held at Spangdahlem in the Skelton Memorial Fitness Center starting at 11 a.m. April 29, Rippel said. For details, call the fitness center at 452-6496.